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11-16-1968

### 1968-11-16, Larry to Carole

Larry Wagoner

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## 1968-11-16, Larry to Carole

### Keywords

U.S.A.; U.S. Soldiers; correspondence; San Francisco, CA; Sepulveda, CA; troops; postal service; postal stamp; women at home; Radio operator; U.S. Navy; humor; food; gifts; explosives; recreation and entertainment; leisure; discontent; Cua Viet; South China Sea; superstition; Khe Sanh; landscapes; ; transfer; supplies; shellshock and mental trauma; Hanoi;

### Identifier

2014.061.w.r.\_Nelson\_vietnamwar\_1968-11-16\_016

21 Cpl 1st Wagon 2379401

3rd Force Recon.

PO San Francisco, Calif.

96602

FREE

6 mos

T. Ernie Ford

Mrs. S. S. S. S.

Miss Carole Nelson

8949 Langdon # 21

Sepeheda, Calif.

91343



16 NOV 68.

To Carole

Be it known to all those concerned that the cloud of mystery which has, until this time, enshrouded the mail room of 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon has at last been torn away revealing a veritable waste land of total disorganization. In short they have been playing all sorts of silly games with my mail. When I got down off the hill last week and back to the area I was handed about four of your letters and one can of assorted goodies such as bunnies, cookies, and some sort of diabolical puzzle which I have since solved with my usual animal cunning (I threw a grenade at it and it hasn't bothered me since.) Anyhow that explains a few things. It seems that about every third letter you sent got sent up to me. Somebody shall pay for this.

Well it would appear the kid has finally come into his own. It seems that after nine months of running over mountains and playing hide and seek in the jungle somebody decided to let me off the hook. When I got back to the area they let me stay one whole day and



then off I went again. This time however I am at Cua Viet which is a Navy / Marine base at the mouth of the Cua Viet river and right smack on the beach of the South China sea. This place is almost civilized, they have a club, an outdoor movie, and by some fluke recon is allowed to eat at the Navy messhall.

After almost three months of eating out of cans anything would be an improvement but a Navy messhall is out of sight. If nothing else the Navy knows how to cook. Also the ocean, I haven't been swimming for sometime and I have never been surfing.

However the waves that come into this place are fairly good sized so some of us decided to take them on. Having no surfboards we blew up our air mattresses as far as we could, cut the legs off our trousers, and charged out through the wire to do battle with the ocean. After 2 and a half hours of ~~rip~~ tides, undertows and being beaten and dragged through the sand I have come to the conclusion that

① we seem to have lost this battle, ② never the less we put up a good fight, and ③ the war is definitely not over yet.



I haven't had ~~so~~ much fun since we got into a rock fight with some rock apes out by the bank and the team leader got cluttered by a rock the size of a grapefruit. This is the only way to run a war.

How do you like this cool paper they gave me. You know sometimes I wonder if our supply system didn't get routed through Hanoi. Also I seem to have gotten ahold of another real winner of a pen. Oh well I must look at the bright side of it, somewhere there is someone who is very happy because he has become extremely rich from all the grade trips & merchandise he has palmed off on the marine corps, and anything that brings happiness to someone can't be all bad, can they?!!

I guess that's about it for now and anyway after I get this folded enough to stuff into an envelope it's going to be pretty thick and if I write much more it may never fit. My what a clever way to close a letter.

Like later  
Larry

[[Nick Dante 7/13/2016]]

[[Nelson Correspondence #16]]

[[Page 1- Envelope]]

L/Cpl. L.E. Wagoner 2379401  
3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon  
FPO San Francisco, Calif.  
966026

FREE

[[different handwriting:]]

Mas  
T Ernie Ford  
Nures's tra ' g

Carole Nelson  
8949 Langdon #21  
Sepulveda, Calif.  
91343

[[Page 2- Letter]]

16 NOV, 1968

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[[Page 4- Letter]]

I haven't had so much fun since we got into a rock fight with some rock apes out by Khe Sanh and the team leader got clobbered by a rock the size of a grapefruit. This is the only way to run a war.

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